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~~INFORM/CONFIDENTIAL~~

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COUNTRY Turkey/Bulgaria

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Group in Istanbul

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

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1. Doctor Veliko Mateev, who has been working as a volunteer in the Cerrah Pasha Hospital in Istanbul, is reported [redacted] to head a group of Bulgarian refugees (including Kyril Shopov, former Bulgarian deputy, and a certain Georgi), who are opposed both personally and ideologically to another group of Bulgarian immigrants numbering among its members Skerlov, a former Bulgarian deputy, Yordan Raichev, and Angel Mirchev. [redacted] 29
Dr. Mateev was recently attacked and beaten by an unidentified group of young Bulgarian refugees and that he has accused the members of the opposition group mentioned above. (Washington Comment. According to a report of unknown reliability dated September 1944, an individual who was reported to be the son of a Dr. Mateev, and who may be the son of Dr. Veliko Mateev, was the head of the Ratnik organization, a pro-German youth group, in the town of Pazardjik, Bulgaria. This individual was reported in 1942 to have betrayed an underground Communist group to the police. Dr. Mateev was reported at that time to be a Germanophile. In August 1948 Dr. Mateev, whose full name is Veliko Mateov Benev, arrived in Istanbul, after escaping from Bulgaria across the Turkish border. He was accompanied by Constantin Panchev Shopov, probably the Kyril Shopov mentioned above; Georgi Kolev Iliev, who might be the Georgi mentioned above; Strati Skerlov Siderov, probably the Skerlov listed above, and Yordan Stoyanov Raichev, probably identical with the above-mentioned Yordan Raichev. All of them were reported in October 1948 to have formed a committee of seven members to head the Agrarian Party in Turkey. The two other members of this committee, not mentioned by the source of this report but known to have escaped from Bulgaria with Mateev, are Lozu Georgiev Hadji-Dimitrov and Yordan Stoyanov Pinalski or Pinaliski.) 29

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